

1953. Much has changed since he sold that first 10-by 24-foot steel boat, and Jim has been there for it all, often leading the way. Houseboats are now much bigger—up to 20 by 100 feet—and are made of aluminum and have on-board heating and cooling systems. One thing that never changed, though, is Jim's passion for building his customer's "dream boat."

Despite being one of the founding fathers of the industry, houseboats do not constitute the totality of his life's work. Jim has owned and operated several other businesses in Somerset in addition to Somerset Marine. In 1966, he developed Food Fair groceries, which he grew into a chain of 13 stores. Two years later, he opened Somerset's first fried chicken restaurant, Kettle Fried Chicken, and in 1974 he bought a car dealership, Pulaski Motor Company.

Although he is now retired, Jim still has plenty to keep him busy. Jim and his wife of nearly 65 years Mary Jo have four children and nine grandchildren, and he has also found time to pick up golf and travel the country.

Jim Sharpe's drive and determination in his business, his commitment to his community, and his love of his family can serve as an example to us all. I ask that my U.S. Senate colleagues join me in honoring this upstanding Kentucky citizen.

#### CLINICAL LABORATORY FEE SCHEDULE

Mr. BURR. Madam President, I would like to engage my colleague, the distinguished ranking member of the Finance Committee, in a short colloquy regarding Clinical Laboratory Fee Schedule payment reform provisions included in the SGR patch bill, Protecting Access to Medicare Act.

Mr. HATCH. I thank the Senator. I would be happy to engage my distinguished colleague in a colloquy. Further, many thanks to him for his leadership over the years on this issue.

Mr. BURR. I thank my colleague and commend his work and the work of his staff in the development of this proposal. Reform of the Clinical Laboratory Fee Schedule is an important priority. The current system does not allow for changes in reimbursement for specific tests and instead, cuts to lab reimbursement have been broad reductions to the fee schedule overall. This imprecise approach has hampered the ability of labs across the country to continue to innovate and improve the diagnosis and treatment of disease. The Protecting Access to Medicare Act reforms this outdated approach and establishes a system requiring laboratories to report market rates to establish Medicare reimbursement. It is my understanding that the intent of this provision is to ensure that Medicare rates reflect true market rates for laboratory services, and as such, that all sectors of the laboratory market should be represented in the reporting

system, including independent laboratories and hospital outreach laboratories that receive payment on a fee-for-service basis under the fee schedule. I ask my distinguished colleague if this is his understanding of the intent of this provision as well.

Mr. HATCH. The Senator is correct. And I thank my good friend from North Carolina for raising this issue. I concur; the intent of the provisions of the bill reforming the Medicare Clinical Laboratory Fee Schedule is to ensure that Medicare rates reflect true market rates, and that commercial payment rates to all sectors of the lab market should be represented, including independent laboratories and hospital outreach laboratories.

Mr. BURR. I thank the Senator for his insights and his work on reform of the Clinical Laboratory Fee Schedule.

#### WORLD WAR II VETERANS VISIT

Mr. MANCHIN. Madam President, I am filled with so much pride every time our military veterans visit our Nation's Capital and have the opportunity to stand before the memorials built to honor them.

This weekend, 93 veterans from North Central West Virginia, escorted by 55 guardians, will be traveling to Washington, DC, to see the memorials that commemorate their sacrifice and valor. This will mark the very first Honor Flight from North Central West Virginia—which is my hometown region of the "Mountain State."

Fifty World War II veterans, 42 Korean war veterans and one terminally ill Vietnam war veteran will fly from the small town of Clarksburg, WV, to Reagan National Airport, and before they lift off on a truly memorable and moving day, I look forward to greeting our vets bright and early at the local airport to wish them a safe trip to our Nation's Capital. I also will express my deepest gratitude to these special men who helped keep America free and made the world a safer place for liberty-loving people across our country and beyond our borders.

Upon their arrival, 30 Active-Duty sailors from the National Naval Medical Center and 8 marines from the USS *West Virginia* submarine will accompany the Honor Flight entourage during their daylong adventure.

These heroic West Virginians will travel to Washington to visit the World War II, Vietnam, Korean, FDR, Air Force, and Iwo Jima Memorials as well attend a ceremony at Arlington Cemetery.

While their step has slowed, their spirit is keen, their pride is undiminished, and their patriotism is immeasurable.

No matter the war, no matter the rank, no matter the duty, every one of these 93 veterans answered America's call and served our great country with the utmost valor. In our time of need, they stepped forward and said: I will do it—I will protect this country.

This trip to our Nation's Capital is just one way to say thank you.

But the West Virginia's North Central community has much more planned to show their gratitude for these devoted and courageous veterans. Upon the Honor Flight's return Saturday evening, hundreds of West Virginians will welcome home our returning vets, including National Guardsmen, Civil Air Patrol volunteers, Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts and our famous West Virginia University Mountaineer, Mike Garcia.

In addition, more than 155 band members from the Busy Bee Band and Honeybees of East Fairmont High School will perform a medley of patriotic songs, led by their band director and former marine, T.J. Bean.

I want to express my gratitude to my hometown community for their tireless efforts to make this Honor Flight a reality. I especially thank Butch Phillips and all the people who have been instrumental in planning and fulfilling this truly special experience for our 93 West Virginia veterans.

This generation of Americans was united by a common purpose and by common values—duty, honor, courage, service, integrity, love of family and country, and their triumph over oppression will be forever remembered.

Let us remember that these Honor Flights show tribute to all who have served this great country, so may God bless the United States of America and all the men and women who keep us free.

#### LOUISIANA GRAY DAY

Ms. LANDRIEU. Madam President, I wish to honor Louisiana Gray Day, this Friday, May 9, and the thousands of Louisianians and Americans with brain cancer and their families. Brain cancer is one of the most incurable forms of cancer and has an average survival period of only 1 to 2 years. It does not discriminate—striking men, women, and children of any race and at any age. Over 688,000 Americans are living with a primary brain tumor and each year over 69,700 people are diagnosed with primary malignant and nonmalignant tumors. Brain tumors are the second leading cause of cancer-related deaths in children under age 20, the second leading cause of cancer-related deaths in males ages 20 to 39, and the fifth leading cause of cancer-related deaths in females ages 20 to 39.

More so than any other cancer, brain tumors can have life-altering psychological, cognitive, behavioral, and physical effects. To help increase awareness and advance medical research for the various forms of brain cancer, the month of May is recognized nationally as brain cancer awareness month. My State has adopted May 9 in particular as the day when the citizens of the State are encouraged to wear the color gray to raise brain cancer awareness.

Brain cancer has unfortunately affected many in my State. Today I